

**Sustainable Development Technical Focus Group**

**October 23, 2002**

**Preliminary List of Questions**

*This list will generate the issues, prompt the data, and direct the discussion of the TFG.*

Background Data:

A. *General Concepts:*

- What is sustainable development, especially in the Pinelands? How does it relate to smart growth?
- Can all development be done in a sustainable way (i.e., can we really have it all?), or must some areas absorb more “unsustainable” development so that other areas can be sustainable?
- How do you go about measuring sustainable development? What are good indicators?
  - S carrying capacity (human/ecological)
  - S other parameters (justice/economic)
- At what level do you measure sustainable development - local, regional, statewide, other?
- What are the warning signs that development is becoming unsustainable?

B. *Watershed Characteristics:*

- Can water quality impairments be correlated to development?
- What are the principal sources of nonpoint source pollution in the watershed (e.g., lawn fertilizers and pesticides, roadside and streambank sediment/soil erosion, floatables, oil/gas, animal waste, road salt)?
- How does the extent of impervious surface in the watershed impact water quality?

Pertaining to Issues:

A. *Use Viability*

- Are there "uses" that are not sustainable in the Pinelands?
- Is development "sustainable" in 3.2-acre zoning?
- How do current zoning and planning practices foster or discourage sustainable development?
- What are the benefits of residential clustering and where should it be applied in the watershed?
- What concerns are specific to the headwaters area and how should development practices be modified to address them?
- What concerns are specific to the Great Bay area and how should development practices be modified to address them?
- What other areas in the watershed are threatened by development? Can sustainable development practices be “retrofitted” in existing, “unsustainable” locations?
- Will our village centers "work" as currently zoned? Can they sustain more development (e.g., as receiving sites for TDR)?
- How can businesses with their special wastewater needs be accommodated?

*B. Water Quality*

- How do current development patterns affect water quality? How is this likely to change in the future?
- Where should stormwater systems be retrofitted or repaired to increase filtration and recharge?
- Where should septic systems be retrofitted or repaired?

*C. Water Supply*

- How does the current (and/or periodic) drought factor into sustainable development planning?
- What are the options for and feasibility of wastewater reuse in the watershed?
- Given the apparent sensitivity of water supplies due to drought, etc., what steps can be taken to minimize impacts on water supply and encourage sustainable use of water resources?
- Are there any realistic alternatives for water supply besides the Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer? Does this vary by location?
- Does the projected future disturbance of the watershed reach a level of concern?

*D. Ecosystem Health*

- How do you measure ecosystem health in areas where "sustainable" development is targeted?
- How does development in other areas of the watershed affect the health of protected ecosystems (e.g., state forests, NGO-owned land, etc.)?

*E. Cumulative Impacts*

- What impacts should be evaluated for all development?
- Are certain types of impacts worse than others?
- Should/can different impacts be "traded off"?

Implementation Tools:

- What Best Management Practices (BMPs) are currently used for stormwater? What other options are (or will soon be) available?
- What do affected municipalities need to do to implement the Phase II stormwater regulations? What BMPs can be used for Canadian geese and pet wastes?
- How can we encourage residents, developers and professional landscapers in the watershed to use integrated pest management and landscape with native, low-maintenance species?
- Existing villages have a key role in the sustainable development of the watershed. How can they be developed to minimize impacts?
- How does affordable housing fit in with sustainable development concepts and practices?
- Are there any other ways the CMP should address sustainable development?
- Who are other key partners in fostering sustainable development and what are their responsibilities?

- Other than clustering, stormwater management and septic systems that reduce nitrogen, what innovative techniques are out there?